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USDA Club News

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Dallas, Texas

It's A Texas Fact!

TEXAS! Always, she's in the headlines—where she belongs! Currently Holiday and Esquire "Tell All". Last week, Life; next week Saturday Evening Post—and the Dallas News. Puny pundits! Telling all about this Texas would take ten thousand tellers ten thousand life-times! Sometimes maliciously mendacious, scurrilously salacious, and scandalously slanted, sometimes actually factual, flatteringly fair, and objectively organized, no story ever written about Texas more than "scrapes the surface". This many-faceted, multigifted, variegated realm called Texas staggers the imagination of even the most Bunyonesque image-evoker and

—(Page 3, please)—

Myrtle Davis Named Honor Member.

Mrs. Myrtle Davis, Chief Clerk of F H A Area Examination Office is the new Honor Member of the U S D A Club. She was elected by the Board of Directors in its monthly meeting March 11.

"Myrt", as she is affectionately called by her many friends, has been in the Examination Office for the past eight years, and during that time she has managed to find time to take part in many varied U S D A activities.

For instance, she has headed every public subscription drive undertaken by the Area Examination Office. These include American Red Cross, Community Chest, blood donation, polio, cancer and heart fund drives, and the purchase of Government bonds. Significantly, goals have been exceeded in each drive.

In addition to these duties in the office, she served as a member of the Board of Directors and

(Continued on page 2 please)

E.S.C. Extends Benefits.

With the endorsement of the Federal Personnel Council the Civil Service Commission announces that it has made benefits retroactive to cover two additional groups of employees in their revised program of job priority for displaced career employees.

These two groups are, (1)
(Page 2, please)

Civil Service News Leads Poll.

Two out of every three employees who filled out the questionnaire on what they wanted in USDA Club News said they would like to be kept posted on civil service regulations such as retirement, annual and sick leave regulations, as their number one preference.

Your second choice was projects undertaken by USDA Committees such as wholesale price benefits, co-operative buying, and group insurance. Third spot was won by personnel changes, followed by

(Please see page 4)

MYRTLE DAVIS NAMED HONOR MEMBER....(Cont'd from 1)

assistant treasurer of the Dallas FHA Credit Union in 1949.

Myrtle is an active member of the USDA Club. At present she is a member of the Correlation and Public Service Committee. Last year she was on the Personal Acquaintance and Arrangements Committee. Since 1944 she has been an active member of N.F.F.E.

She has been employed by FHA since 1937, starting first in the county office in Georgetown, where she was born and reared. She came to the Regional Office in 1941 and transferred to her present position in Area Examination in 1945.

"Myrt is a good listener; she's well liked; she's conscientious; she's loyal; she does an excellent job; she's a fine person."

These are a few of the things employee-associates and other friends say about USDA's new Honor Member.

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CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION CLARIFIES WORDING

ON JOB FORM 57

JOB APPLICANTS MAY NO LONGER CLAIM AMBIGUOUS, or misleading wording on the Form 57 in pleading their case where falsification of their previous employment is brought to light. Subject to Budget Bureau approval, the Civil Service Commission has announced changes in the wording on the job application to clarify the meaning in two specific cases. (a) Those covering questions regarding having been previously discharged from a job, and (b) those covering any police record of arrests.

The Commission points out that anyone receiving employment through falsification of his employment record may be discharged, and if the concealment be of a sufficiently flagrant nature the employee may be prosecuted and receive a jail sentence or a fine, or both.

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WILLS-FOR-MEMBERS AGAIN MADE OFFICIAL BY USDA CLUB

The USDA Board of Directors at their regular monthly meeting March 11 voted to continue the will-drawing project initiated by Lee Pierson, Bill Farrell, and others in the Office of the Solicitor 2 years ago. This is a very worthwhile service and members who take advantage of it may congratulate themselves on foresightedness as well as thrift. It may save troublesome litigation for your heirs, and it WILL save money getting it done "for free" by the SOL folks.

Did You Know...

In 24 hours your blood travels a total distance of 168 million miles?....

You speak 4800 words? (Of course this doesn't apply to that gossip across the way who yaks, and Y A K S * * * * *)

CSA EXTENDS JOB BENEFITS... (from page 1)

those with civil service status who were re-instated on an indefinite basis, because of emergency appointment regulations, and, (2) those who were appointed to jobs outside civil service coverage after a break in service for more than 30 days.

Members of these two groups who have been RIF'ed may file for these benefits within 90 days or not later than June 3, 1953.

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U S D A CLUB TO HOLD FUTURE MEETINGS AT THE Y W C A.

Because it is more centrally located for all the members as a whole, the USDA Board of Directors voted to return to their former meeting place in the YWCA at the last monthly meeting. As a courtesy to the incoming President (Mr Howard Martin and Secretary (Mrs. Helen Parks), the outgoing Board voted to hold the installation meeting in the conference room of the FHA Area Finance Office. Newly-installed Board members voted to continue there. However, at Howard's suggestion a new vote was taken and, courtesy being satisfied, convenience for the majority took charge.

The USDA Club News is published monthly at 912 South Ervay, fifth floor Lowich Building. Send all news contributions to that address or telephone the editor, ST-5611, Ext. 2044. Want-ads welcome but keep'em brief!

James L. (Jimmy) Hyles
EDITOR.

CERTIFICATES AND CASH!

Another group of USDA employees were recently awarded certificates and monetary awards for outstanding contributions above the requirements of their jobs.

Mrs. Emma B. Nance, Home Economist, P M A Area Food Distribution Programs, was awarded a Certificate of Merit for Superior Accomplishment with a pay increase. Mrs. Nance helped establish a special training program in the school lunch project.

James R. (Jimmie) Sutton of the Program Accounts Section, FHA Area Finance Office, was awarded a certificate of Appreciation with cash award for a suggestion which will save the fiscal division time, money, and work, and contribute to greater efficiency of operation.

Jimmie W. Mize, PMA Area Audit Office, was awarded a Certificate of Merit "for an exhibition of outstanding initiative" in being the first to unearth evidence of fraud in the recent grain shortages. He was also recently given an "Outstanding" efficiency rating. CONGRATULATIONS, ALL!

IT'S A TEXAS FACT! (from page 1)

leaves him hopelessly groping for the right words in sufficient number to "tell all" about Texas. It's impossible. Even this expert on Texiana can't do it! Here are some reasons why:

The key is in the names Texans have given their cities and towns. That indicates what they really think and feel about their state that is different from any other spot on earth. You won't find a single "brag" in Texas. Oklahoma and Alabama have Braggs; Missouri Bragg City and Braggadocio. You'll have to go to Arkansas for a "Little Rock". You'll find Level land, Fairland, Sugarland, Suniland, Goodland, Richland, Dreamland, Fruitland, Whiteland and Kingsland in Texas. Texas has Rains but no Mud (that's in W. Va.) and no Barre Plains (that's in Mass.) BEAUTIFUL TEXAS! No ugliness. (That's in Ahgwahching, Minn., Zwingle, Iowa, and Antassawamunk Neck, Mass.)

No sin in Texas. (Cincinnati, Ohio, and Sinsinawa, Wisc. are the nearest "sin spots") The nearest Deville is in Louisiana, Devils tower is in Wyo., Devils Slide, Utah, Devils Elbow, Mo., and Devils Lake is in N. Dak. YESSIR, everything's Devine and Sublime in Texas, where there's Paradise, Eden, and Elysian Fields! And you can't gamble there. You can find a King, Ace, and Queen City, but no Joker. (That's in W. Va...and for Plain Dealing you'll have to journey to Louisiana). Godley Texas!

Texans live in Independence, Industry, and Security—Pleasant, Happy, Jolly, filled with Joy and partaking of every Blessing, where Cash is always available. Texas, the land of perennial youth! You can find Old Fields in W. Va., Old Town in Maine, Old Church in Va., but only Old Glory in Texas!

And the Best (Veribest) for the last! Texas knows her "ABC's" when it comes to Beautiful Women! The rest of the world is a desert in comparison. Calling the roll with alphabetical abandon, each "Queen City" memorializing a gracious, beautiful Texas version of God's greatest handiwork: Alice, Betty, Celeste, Delores, Edith, Florence, Gail, Henrietta, Inez, Juno, Katy, Louise, Minerva, Nancy, Olivia, Patricia, Rowena, Sarita, Thalia, Venus, Winona, Ysleta, and Zephyr.

It's a Texas Fact, the moment Texas stops "exporting" her most precious commodity the kliegs of Hollywood, the mazdas of Broadway will dim to glow-worm brightness, the movie moguls will stop selling "peaches, start selling apples, and John Robert Powers will close up his New York outpost (in Dallas) and join them. For comeliness, "comhitherness" and caressibility Texas Lovelies are in a class (And WHAT CLASS!) by themselves. Now, I've "told all"!

F-O R S A L E : 4-burner (& oven) apt. gas stove and 6 1/2 cu/ft. Servel (gas) refrigerator. Both good condition—both together, \$75.00 Sta. 2044-Jimmy

CIVIL SERVICE NEWS LEADS POLL PREFERENCE (From P. 1)

facts about work of USDA.

Then in order of your preference here are the others: fifth, efficiency and honor awards; sixth, personal items such as births, marriages, deaths; seventh, meetings of various USDA groups; eighth, visits of USDA personnel from other areas; ninth, classified ads; tenth, "It's A Texas Fact"; eleventh, changes of office addresses; twelfth, poetry.

The results are based on a tabulation which gave a vote count of 12 to a first place choice, 11 for second, and so on, with 1 vote for twelfth. It was tabulated by a special committee composed of David Wells, Bill Williamson, Corre Curtice, and Anne Morrow, all members of the Correlation and Public Service Committee.

Your response was excellent. Out of 800 plus questionnaires distributed, 346 were returned. That is a 43 % return and particularly significant when radio stations consider a 10 % mail return as "terrific".

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P M A COMMODITY OFFICE REACTIVATES EMPLOYEE SUGGESTION PROGRAM

The PMA Commodity Office has reactivated the Employee Suggestion Program and all employees are urged to take part. They are reminded that cash awards up to \$1,000.00 are possible, as well as in-grade raises, Letters of Commendation, and other forms of recognition.

Suggestions that will increase job productivity improve efficiency, or contribute to a more effective or economical way of doing the job within the Department are the "open-sesame" to success in the Awards Program.

A recent survey shows FHA leading all other agencies in the Department in number of suggestions accepted in relation to number of employees, while PMA is ahead in money saved the government through employee suggestions.

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TEXAS WF PROGRAM INCREASED BY HALF MILLION DOLLARS

Extra attention to water needs is pointed up by the long drouth in the state, and FHA is urging each county supervisor to utilize their water facility loans where needed as a means to make each FHA borrower more independent of weather vagaries. With half a million more dollars appropriated for the current year the Water Facilities program is proving both effective and popular. Only 23 borrowers are 12 months delinquent out of 823 currently active.

Quoted

"Are you in a hurry,
Afraid to be late?
Heaven may not wait you--
And Satan can wait!"

*-Concern says the foregoing was seen at a busy intersection in Calcutta India.

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PLENTIFUL FOODS INCLUDE BEEF

With cattle prices falling beef is now within the reach of all with choice or attractively priced. Due to a number of reasons the market has been recently much more active than usual, with the result that meat markets are putting on specials in beef—a most unusual sight.

Other foods in plentiful supply include lettuce and cabbage. Winter stocks in Texas and Arizona were augmented by a bumper crop. Grapefruit and oranges are still good buys, also honey, carrots, dried figs, peanuts and frozen fish. Dairy products in general are still economical foods, with eggs holding firm as to price and quality up from last year at this time.

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CSC MERIT SYSTEM MERITS KUD

Federal employees under civil service are constantly seeking better ways to do their job. Since 1930 the cost of collecting each tax dollar has dropped over 60 %; postal efficiency has increased from 41.6 pieces of mail per man-hour to 51.5 pieces in 10 years, and self-improvement in Agriculture has been just as marked. The reason? Higher morale through job security; more pride in the job.